

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON HELD ON MARCH 9, 2004

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Warrenton was held on March 9, 2004 in the Town Council Chambers.

Councilmembers present: George B. Fitch, Mayor, presiding; Robert W. Rice, Vice Mayor, Councilmen David A. Norden, Birge S. Watkins, Stephen L. Athey, Robert L. Walker, Samuel B. Tarr and John S. Lewis.

Also present: Kenneth L. McLawhon, Town Manager, Whitson Robinson, Town Attorney; and Evelyn J. Weimer, Town Recorder.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and invocation was given by Councilman John S. Lewis.

CITIZENS TIME.

Recognition of Richard Heartley for “Distinguished Budget Preparation Award.”

Mr. Heartley was congratulated by Mayor Fitch on his attainment of the “Distinguished Budget Preparation Award” awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Partnership for Warrenton – Presentation of Awards.

Ms. Anne-Marie Walsh, Partnership for Warrenton, presented plaques awarded to the Partnership for Warrenton, Foundation, Inc. and the Town of Warrenton denoting “20,000 Volunteer Hours” for accumulated hours of volunteer time since 1997 which equate to more than \$343,000 in support for downtown revitalization and “\$15 million Community” for creating the climate for private investment and job creation, and preserving downtown historic character.

The Mayor indicated that the Partnership’s efforts will put the Town in good stead with for an award from the First Lady which recognizes those communities that have been preserving the culture and heritage of their community.

Don Pender.

Mr. Pender, Town employee, Town Water Filtration Plant, noted he had been reading the strategic plan for the Town which noted that there were numerous notes concerning the well being of the citizens, residents and tourists. He stated other items mentioned were “reliable town services, extension of utilities, quick response to citizens and well being.” He stated that the comments were just words and ideas without the Town’s greatest resource – the employees. He requested that a cost of living raise be granted all Town employees, coupled with the current merit system.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- a. Approval of the Council minutes of the regular meeting held on February 10, 2004.

- b. Financial statement and staff reports and Board and Commission minutes.
 - (1) Financial statement for period ending February 29, 2004.
 - (2) February statement of accounts paid.
 - (3) Miscellaneous staff reports.
 - (4) Minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on November 19, 2003 and the Architectural Review Board meeting held on November 25, 2003.
- c. Consideration of closure of streets for the annual Spring Festival and permission to hang a banner advertising the Spring Festival prior to the event.
- d. Consideration of request of Warrenton Hunt Races to hang a banner across Waterloo Street at Main Street to promote the horse race on March 13, 2004 at Airlie.

On a motion by Mr. Tarr, seconded by Mr. Watkins, the consent agenda was approved on a 7-0 vote (for: Norden, Watkins, Athey, Walker, Rice, Tarr, Lewis).

NEW BUSINESS.

Consideration of resolution to VDOT for Urban Programs Intersection Improvements. Edward B. Tucker, Jr., Director of Public Works/Utilities.

Mr. Tucker noted that VDOT urban funds are allocated for both maintenance and construction. He indicated that the construction funds have been used for larger projects such as Shirley Avenue widening and the 17 Spur. He stated three potential projects had been identified which would qualify for funds – intersection and signal improvements for the Broadview Avenue/Gold Cup area, intersection improvements in the vicinity of Broadview/Old Broadview and Winchester Street (near Shopping Center) and where it meets Route 17 North, and traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Blackwell Road and Walker Drive. Signalization would also be addressed.

Mr. Tucker stated that the request would be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and then a meeting with the federal government would occur in the fall, 2004, with funds being available in early 2005.

The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION

VDOT URBAN PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Department of Transportation construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by council resolution be made in order that the Department program an urban highway project in the Town of Warrenton; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Warrenton, Virginia requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to establish an urban system highway project for improvement of the following intersections: Winchester Street and Old Broadview Avenue, Gold Cup Drive and Broadview Avenue, and Walker Drive and Blackwell Road, as well as the synchronization of existing traffic signals on Lee Highway and Broadview Avenue,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the Town of Warrenton hereby agrees to pay its share of the total cost for preliminary engineering, right of way and construction of this project in accordance with Section 33.1-44 of the Code of Virginia, and that, if the Town of Warrenton subsequently elects to cancel this project the Town of Warrenton hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of the costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation.

Mr. Norden expressed his feeling that other alternatives, including medians, should be considered for Broadview Avenue.

On a motion by Mr. Tarr, seconded by Mr. Athey, the resolution was adopted on a vote of 6-1 (for: Watkins, Athey, Walker, Rice, Tarr, Lewis; against: Norden).

Mr. Rice asked if there were any plans in the 2020 plan for anything to occur in the area of Walker Drive and Meetze Road. Mr. Tucker responded that there were no plans at this time.

Mr. Rice asked if there were plans for a flyover ramp or other improvements at the southern entrance into Town. Mr. Tucker noted that that was an item that both the Town and County had supported and he knew that there were plans in the future for improvements but he was not sure of the year the proposed improvements would occur. He further noted that some improvements had been made at the intersection.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Report from Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney noted that a joint public hearing with Fauquier County would be held on March 29 at 7:00 p.m. over at the Warrenton Community Center.

Report from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Watkins, Chairman, asked the Manager to give a briefing on the status of the proposed FY 2005 budget. The Manager stated that 85% of BPOL revenues had been received and that 599 funding would be factored into budget at the level currently noted on the applicable wet site as a tentatively expected amount. He noted that Council would receive the budget on March 15. He further noted that health insurance had been negotiated down to an 8% increase. He requested a finance committee meeting be held the week of March 22.

Report from the Police Committee.

Mr. Athey, Chairman, thanked Chief Paul for responding to the complaint from the citizen received by Council at their February meeting.

Report from the Public Works Committee.

Mr. Rice, noted that there was no report.

Report from the Utility Committee.

Mr. Norden, chairman, noted there was no report.

Report from the Airport Committee.

Mr. Lewis noted that there was no report.

Report from the Planning District 9 Representative.

Mr. Lewis noted that there was no report.

Report from the Transportation Safety Commission.

Mr. Watkins indicated there would be a meeting held on March 11.

Report from the Economic Development Advisory Committee representative.

Mr. Lewis stated that there was no report.

Report from the Recreation Committee.

Mr. Athey stated that there was a meeting held with the architects and another meeting was scheduled for March 10. He indicated that a report would soon be given to Council as to what is recommended for the recreation center.

Report from Joint Communications Board representative.

There was no report.

Report from Liaison Committee representative.

Mr. Norden noted that there was no report.

Report from the Town Manager.

Mr. McLawhon, Town Manager, noted that the house relocation project would occur on March 15 and Council had received a package of material concerning the matter.

Mr. Rice asked if the yoke for the houses had been disconnected and Mr. John Kemper, who was seated in the audience, noted that the yoke had been removed and the yokes to the other two houses will be removed.

COUNCILMEMBERS TIME.

Mr. Norden thanked Chief Paul for the speeding enforcement on Falmouth Street.

Mr. Tarr noted he had a comment from a citizen thanking the Public Works Department for the appearance of the Warrenton Cemetery.

Mr. Walker asked Chief Paul if a citizen received a parking ticket for overtime parking how many tickets could they receive in one day. Chief Paul noted that usually only one ticket is issued but it was conceivable that a vehicle could receive an overtime parking ticket every two hours.

Chief Paul stated that unless the Town Manager and Council indicate otherwise, that only one ticket would be issued in one day.

CLOSED SESSION, SECTION 2.1-344(A)(1) – FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL ISSUES, SPECIFICALLY, CONSIDERATION OF RFPS FOR TOWN ATTORNEY SERVICES AND ARB MEMBERSHIP PERFORMANCE RELATED DISCUSSION.

On a motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Norden, the General Session was adjourned and closed session convened on a 6-0 vote (for: Norden, Athey, Walker, Rice, Tarr, Lewis; absent during vote: Watkins).

On a motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Norden, the Closed Session was adjourned and the General Session convened on a 7-0 vote (for: Norden, Watkins, Athey, Walker, Rice, Tarr, Lewis).

On a motion by Mr. Tarr, seconded by Mr. Norden, Whitson Robinson was appointed Town Attorney in line with his RFP presented on a vote of 7-0 (for: Norden, Watkins, Athey, Walker, Rice, Tarr, Lewis).

On a motion by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Athey, Mr. John Albertella was removed as a member of the Architectural Review Board on a vote of 4-3 (for: Athey, Walker, Tarr, Lewis; against: Norden, Watkins, Rice).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Evelyn J. Weimer, Town Recorder